

REMARKS

Claims 2-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended with the inclusion of the attached amended Abstract. A Terminal Disclaimer is also filed herewith. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, objects to the Abstract. Applicants amend the Abstract to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 3, indicates that claims 20-22 include allowable subject matter. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability but respectfully submit that claims 2-19 are also allowable for the reasons set forth below.

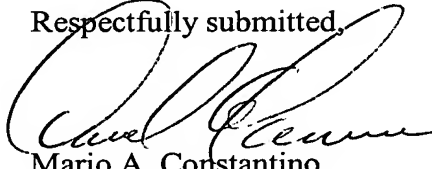
The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 2-19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,602 to Kohama et al.. A Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c) is filed with this Amendment to overcome the rejection of the claims based on non-statutory double patenting. U.S. Patent No. 6,670,602 is commonly assigned, and is, in fact, the Patent which issued based on U.S. Patent Application No. 09/324,896 filed June 3, 1999, of which this application is a Continuation (see Continuation data on page 1 of the specification).

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-19, in addition to the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 20-22, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Constantino
Registration No. 33,565

Daniel A. Tanner, III
Registration No. 54,534

MAC:DAT/fpw

Attachments:

Amended Abstract
Terminal Disclaimer

Date: April 28, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

| |
|---|
| <p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p> |
|---|